

1-1 By: Bohac (Senate Sponsor - Patrick) H.C.R. No. 151
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 14, 2007;
1-3 May 15, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Government Organization; May 22, 2007, rereferred to Committee on
1-5 International Relations and Trade; May 22, 2007, reported
1-6 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 22, 2007,
1-7 sent to printer.)

1-8 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-9 WHEREAS, The State of Texas boasts a richly diverse cultural
1-10 heritage, and through the years it has adopted a number of tangible
1-11 representations of that heritage as official symbols; and

1-12 WHEREAS, For nearly a century, the cowboy boot has enjoyed a
1-13 special status as one of the most treasured of Texas icons; and

1-14 WHEREAS, Although riding boots date back for centuries, and
1-15 although ranches first appeared in Texas during the Spanish
1-16 colonial era, the basic pattern of the cowboy boot was forged in the
1-17 crucible of the post-Civil War trail drives; between 1866 and 1890,
1-18 mounted cowboys drove millions of head of Texas cattle to northern
1-19 and western markets along such famous trails as the Chisholm,
1-20 Western, and Goodnight-Loving; and

1-21 WHEREAS, Boot makers in Texas and Kansas responded to
1-22 suggestions from those cowboys regarding the design of their
1-23 footwear, and a slimmer boot with a higher heel, more rounded toe,
1-24 and rounded, reinforced instep began to be developed; and

1-25 WHEREAS, During the course of the 20th century, cowboy boots
1-26 gained a mass appeal that ultimately extended to foreign lands;
1-27 this popularity was driven by an enthusiasm for the West that was
1-28 fostered in the 1920s and 1930s by radio shows and movie serials and
1-29 in the post-World War II decades by rodeos and dude ranches; the
1-30 public's fascination with cowboys and their apparel has also been
1-31 fired by movie screen idols such as Tom Mix, by entertainers such as
1-32 Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, and Dale Evans, and, in recent years, by
1-33 movies such as *Urban Cowboy* and *Silverado*; and

1-34 WHEREAS, The lore of the cowboy boot is replete with the names
1-35 of Texas boot makers who have contributed to the emergence of that
1-36 boot as a distinct type, as well as to the continuing development of
1-37 their craft; one of the most influential of the early boot makers
1-38 was H. J. "Big Daddy Joe" Justin, who set up a boot repair shop in
1-39 Spanish Fort, just off the Chisholm Trail in Montague County, in
1-40 1879; within a decade, Mr. Justin became one of the first to offer
1-41 cowboy boots by mail order; and

1-42 WHEREAS, Other Texas boot makers whose businesses gained
1-43 national prominence were Mr. Justin's daughter, Enid Justin
1-44 Steltzer, who established the Nocona Boot Company in Nocona in
1-45 1925, Sam Lucchese, who founded the Lucchese Boot and Shoe Factory
1-46 in San Antonio in 1883, and Tony Lama, who began with a shoe repair
1-47 shop in El Paso in 1912; and

1-48 WHEREAS, Smaller establishments also hold an honored place in
1-49 the annals of the cowboy boot; in 2002, more than 100 cowboy-boot
1-50 makers were plying their trade in this state, many of them revered
1-51 by connoisseurs who were willing to wait for periods of a year or
1-52 more for a custom pair; these artisans were making boots for
1-53 everyone from working cowboys to sports and entertainment
1-54 celebrities and heads of state; and

1-55 WHEREAS, While they hew to a basic form, cowboy boots have
1-56 evolved into an amazingly versatile article; fashioned with a
1-57 variety of toe and heel styles, types of leather, and
1-58 embellishment, they can be worn today on virtually any occasion; so
1-59 remarkable has been their diversity that they have been the subject
1-60 of several coffee-table books and at least two exhibitions: "These
1-61 Boots Are Made for Gawking," at the Grace Museum in Abilene, and
1-62 "Heels and Toes and Everything Goes: Cowboy Boots As Art," at the
1-63 Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon; and

1-64 WHEREAS, An integral part of cowboy gear, cowboy boots played

2-1 a valued role in one of the defining chapters in Texas history and
2-2 continue to figure in the mythic romance of the Lone Star State;
2-3 now, therefore, be it

2-4 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-5 hereby designate the cowboy boot as the official State Footwear of
2-6 Texas.

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